

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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THREE ARRESTED BY ABC INVESTIGATORS AND LOCAL POLICE

Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Selma Police Officers arrested three people in an undercover decoy operation targeting sales of alcoholic beverages to minors. Approximately fifteen patrons were asked at seven liquor stores to purchase alcohol for a minor on September 2, 2005 during a Shoulder Tap Decoy Operation in the city of Selma. Three adults agreed to purchase alcohol for the minor.

Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcoholic beverages. The minor indicates in some way that he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcoholic beverage.

If the adults purchase alcohol for the minor, Investigators arrest and cite them for furnishing alcoholic beverages to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcoholic beverages to minors, who have a higher rate of drunken driving crashes than adults in general. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking increases incidences of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromises health, and results in unintentional injury and death.

For more information on the operation, contact the ABC District Administrator Chris Weldon at (559) 225-6334.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright-McPeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.

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